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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Lasse L. HESSEL et al.

Confirmation No. 7795

Application No.: 10/773,697

Group Art Unit: 2833

Filing Date: February 6, 2004

Examiner: J. Hewitt

For: COUPLING FOR COUPLING TWO
DEVICES AND METHOD FOR USING
THE COUPLING

Atty. Docket No.: 81421-4037

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's restriction of species requirement, applicant elects, with traverse, the embodiment shown in Figs. 8-16. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-19 and 24-38 read on this embodiment and should be examined at this time.

It is respectfully submitted that this requirement is in error and should be withdrawn. As any of the embodiments of Figs. 17-26 can be used with the embodiments of Figs. 8-16, a complete and proper examination of Figs. 8-16 would of necessity include the classes and subclasses where the embodiments of Figs. 17-26 also reside. In fact, the embodiments are related in that Figures 17-26 are directed to locking means that are suitable for use in the implant of Figures 8-16, so the restriction should be modified to at least include an examination of these other figures.

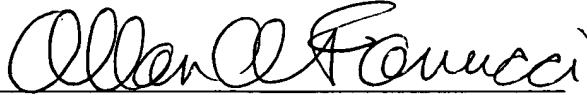
Further, the Examiner is reminded that in the situation where no material prior art is uncovered for the elected species, the search should be expanded to the species disclosed in the other figures up to a "reasonable" number of up to 9.

In view of the above and of the prior art that has been submitted, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Please charge any and all required fees to WINSTON & STRAWN LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814.

Date: 11/3/05

Respectfully submitted,


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